

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace Figures 1, 3 and 4 with new Figures 1, 3 and 4 as presented in the attached drawings.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84(p)(4), (p)(5); objected to the abstract under 37 C.F.R. §1.52(b)(4) for including additional text; and rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,933,786 to Monhandas et al. ("Monhandas"). Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 18-21. By this Reply, Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct a minor deficiency. Currently, claims 1-21 are pending in this application.

Objections

The drawings and specification have been amended to address the 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84(p)(4), (p)(5) objections to the drawings raised by the Examiner. Reference characters not mentioned in the description have been removed. Reference characters mentioned in the specification and not included in the drawings have been added in the amended drawings. Paragraph 0055 is amended to clarify that reference resistance R_C represents a resistance and not a component resistor. Because there is no component, the reference resistance is not required to be shown in the drawings. Reference numerals 210 and 220 as shown in Figure 4 and referred to in the specification in paragraphs 0068 and 0069 have been amended to 310 and 320, respectively.

The Abstract has been amended to address the 37 C.F.R. §1.52(b)(4) objection raised by the Examiner. The Abstract has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

In light of the amendments to the specification, abstract and drawings, Applicant submits that each of the objections should be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Monhandas for at least the reason that Monhandas fails at least to teach or suggest “at least one control terminal of the circuit, by which an operating point of the amplifier can be changed between at least two values at a user end,” as recited in claim 1. In contrast, Monhandas discloses only a variable amplifier controlled by control circuit 16. As disclosed in the specification, “the control circuit 16 can select between a first range 22 and a second range 24. The controllable input impedance circuit 20 is formed by a variable feedback resistance.” Col. 1 line 66 – col. 2 line 1. Furthermore, “control circuit 16 adjusts the open loop gain of the amplifier based on the output voltage.” Col. 2, lines 14-15. Thus, Monhandas discloses only an adjustment made by the control circuit 16 based on feedback, and not by way of “at least one control terminal of the circuit, by which an operating point of the amplifier can be changed between at least two values at a user end,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added).

Because Monhandas fails to teach or suggest each and every claim element, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2-17 each depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable at least for their dependence on an allowable independent claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned if the Examiner believes that a telephone interview or Examiner's amendment will further the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Eric L. Maschoff
Registration No. 36,596
Attorney for Applicant
Customer No. 022913
Telephone: (801) 533-9800

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FIG 1

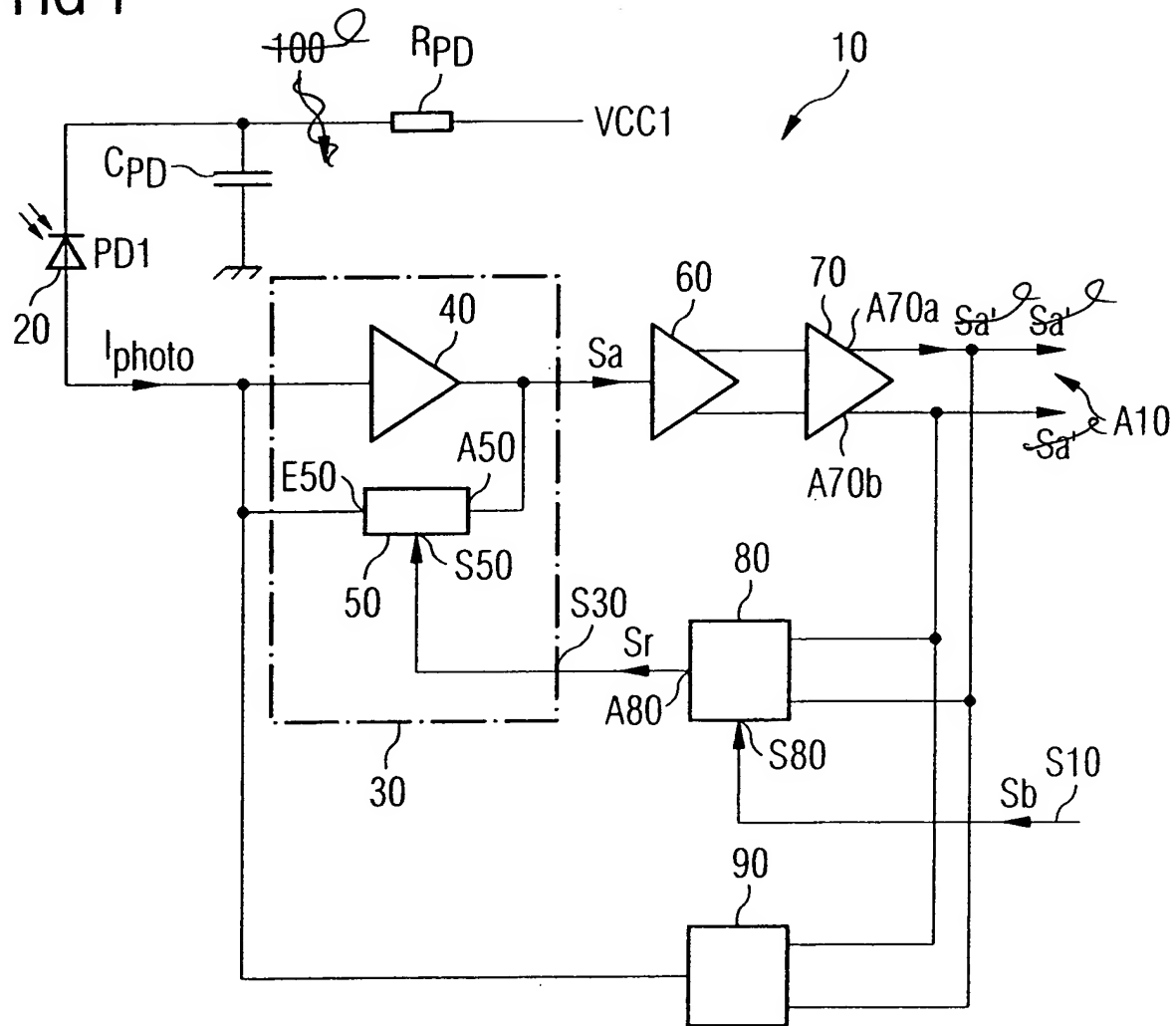


FIG 2

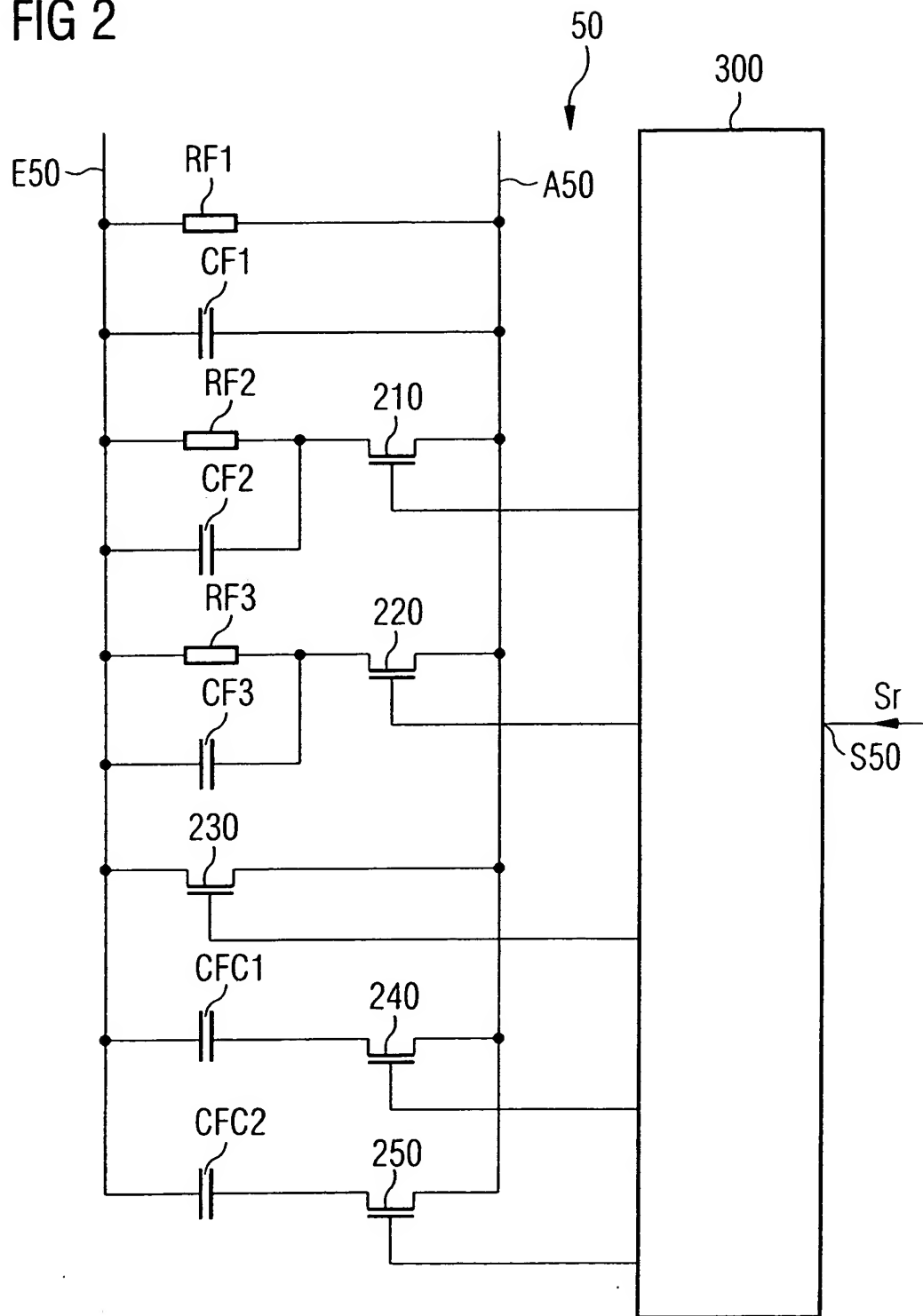


FIG 3

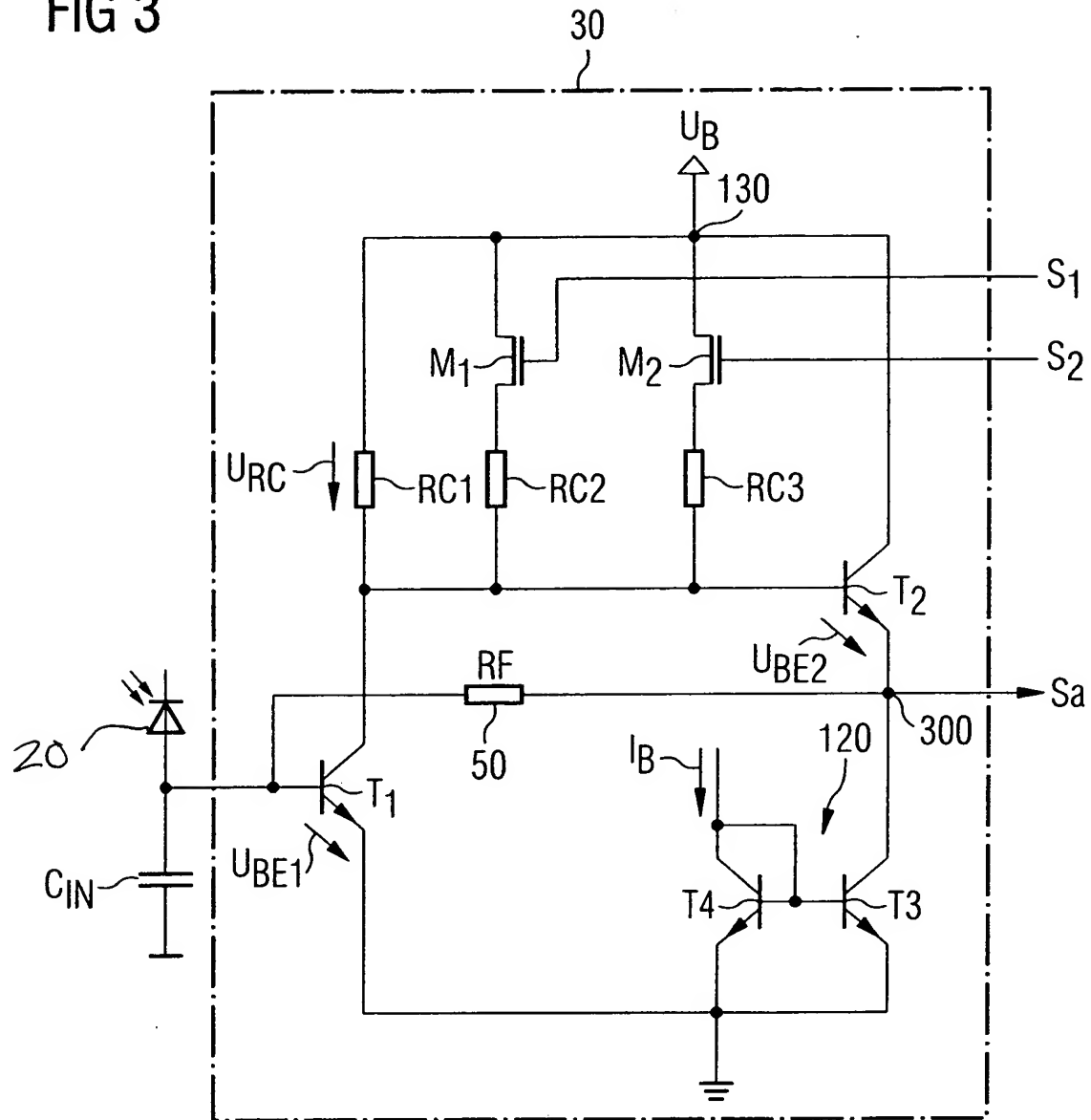


FIG 4

